

Serial No.: "

Please amend the specification as follows: Page 50, Line 12:

Then, the voltage application process is continued for a certain time. Thus, the impurity cations C contained in the glass pipe 11 can be diffused from the outer circumferential surface of the glass pipe 11 and evacuated from the first high purification apparatus 100 ~~300~~ by utilizing the flow of the outer gas G2, or can be unevenly distributed in the vicinity of the outer circumferential surface of the glass pipe 11, as illustrated in a primary-part sectional view of FIG. 9(b).

Please amend the specification as follows: Page 78, Line 6:

Further, the furnace 140 of this embodiment is of the high frequency ~~dielectric heating type~~ induction type. The heating element 141 generates heat by feeding a. c. current in a coil 142. The heating element 141 is a cylindrical graphite one covering the surroundings of an abutting portion at which the plug 131 abuts against the glass rod 103. This heating element 141 generates heat at a temperature, which is equal to or higher than the softening temperature of glass, thereby to heat and soften the glass rod 103.

Please amend the specification as follows: Page 57, Line 15:

Furthermore, although in third and fourth embodiments, the inner space of the glass pipe 11 is filled with the inner gas, while the outer gas is made to flow, the embodiments may be modified so that the inner gas is made to flow in the inner space of the glass pipe, ~~and the outer gas is made to flow in the base.~~